



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **COUNTY HONORED FOR HELPING FOSTER YOUTH** *Housing Program Wins National Award*

A County of San Diego program that helps foster youths find a place to live after they leave the foster care system has won a national award.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development gave the county its HOME Doorknocker Award, which recognizes outstanding government projects that provide affordable housing to low-income and underserved people. A total of 20 state and local governments won the award this year. San Diego County won one of the two awards given out in California. (The other award was for a farm worker housing project in Oceanside. The County was a funding partner for that project.)

"This is a wonderful program that offers a helping hand to young people who have been dealt a rough hand in life," said Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price. "With the tight housing market in San Diego, we want to help foster youth make the transition into independence and adulthood."

The County won its Doorknocker Award for the Emancipated Foster Youth Tenant Based Rental Assistance program, which is run jointly by the Housing and Community Development Department and the Independent Living Skills Program of the Health and Human Services Agency.

Independent Living Skills screens foster youths who turn 18 and are aging out of the system and refers them to Housing and Community Development. The youths find an apartment or home they want to rent and they agree to pay 30 percent of their adjusted monthly income on rent. The Housing department, using money from HUD's HOME Program, pays the remainder of the rent for up to 24 months.

This year, the County has 50 youths in the program. The program has helped a total of 79 youths since it began in 2002.

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